

JAMES, ALMIRA MOORE  
AND MARY MURDOCK  
DUKE



James Duke, eldest son of Jonathan Oldham and Mary Stone Duke, was born in Albany, New York, December 21, 1829. He married Almira Moore on October 10, 1851. They were parents of 11 children: James Moore, Almira Jane, Ethan Allen, Robert Stone, John Calvin, Joseph Moroni, Helaman, Mahonri M., Lamoni Roy, Bernice Gertrude, and Sarah.

James Duke married Mary Murdoch in October, 1868, as a plural wife. She and James were parents of eight children. James died at Wallsburg on the 20th of May, 1892.

With his parents, James Duke came to Nauvoo in 1840, and as a boy of 11 years he saw and heard Joseph and Hyrum Smith preach many times. He remembered many of the sufferings and persecutions of the Mormon people in and around Nauvoo.

In 1850 the family started for Utah. James was a teamster and hunter. He was taken down with mountain fever and they had to lay over until he was able to travel. They soon overtook the main company.

They lived the first winter in the Twelfth Ward in Salt Lake City, but in the spring of 1851 they moved to Provo and built a home. He worked as a mason and helped to build some of the first buildings in Provo.

In 1860 he came to Heber. He was president of the dramatic association for some years, also a prominent actor in early days, when people had to furnish their own entertainment. He was a drummer in the Territorial Militia during the Black Hawk War, in 1866 and 1867. He sometimes acted as an Indian interpreter. He built the old Heber tithing office and President Hatch's first house in Heber. He also had a farm.

In October, 1868, he married Mary Murdoch as a plural wife, and she bore him eight children, named in their mother's history.

He built a home in Wallsburg for his first wife and family. He was a very friendly man and was one of the main promoters of amusements in early days. He was a member of the High Priests' Quorum, and was a firm believer in the Gospel. Although he never received much of this world's goods, he was rich in kind words and deeds, and the love and goodwill of all his associates.

MARY M. MURDOCK  
DUKE RYAN



Mary M. Murdoch Duke Ryan was born in a small tent on the bank of a stream about nine miles from Kansas City. A terrible thunderstorm was raging when she was born. She was the third child. The two older children had died a short time before of cholera. The pioneer camp was quarantined for the disease. Mary's mother was very sick, but with the help of the Lord she was soon able to walk and carry her baby to Salt Lake City. It was nine months from the time they left Scotland until they arrived at their destination. They lived in Salt Lake City for eight years before coming to Heber.

She endured a typical pioneer's life in rearing her family. She was a good dressmaker and was able to take care of her family well until they were able to care for themselves. Then she lived with Dr. David Crawford Lindsay, caring for their baby until they left Heber. Later she went to care for David Keith Jr. She took a world tour with the Keiths. She lived with them until young David needed a governess. After returning to Heber she married

William Ryan and lived several happy years until her death.